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Abstract of the national paper of Jordan

1. In Jordan, activities relating to the peaceful uses of outer space are limited to three major fields: telecommunications, meteorology and remote sensing.

2. Advances in telecommunications go back to 1971, when the first satellite receiving station was established at Baq'a, to the north of Amman. As a result of several modernization projects implemented during the period 1971-1995, the Baq'a complex now has three satellite receiving stations ensuring traffic through 1,584 channels to about 52 destinations worldwide.

3. Motivated by political will at the highest level, the private sector in Jordan has been actively involved in introducing and promoting mobile phone and Internet services in Jordan. As a result of the current trend towards lowering the initial and running costs of those services, they will soon become affordable to a broad segment of the population in Jordan.

4. To catch up with the developments in using satellite meteorology techniques, the Department of Meteorology has acquired several systems for receiving cloud images and climate data and exchanging information with other national meteorological centres.

5. Remote sensing techniques were introduced in 1989 when an integrated image-processing unit was established in the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre. The successful applications include updating maps, thematic mapping and conducting studies related to agricultural, water and environmental applications.

6. Parallel to the developments involving applications, significant progress has been made in the areas of education and training. Elements of space science and applications were introduced in schools at the primary and secondary levels. At the university level, remote sensing courses are now an integral part of agriculture, environment and earth science programmes. In addition, some Jordanian universities have recently started undergraduate and graduate programmes in space applications. Such programmes cover topics in space geodesy, remote sensing and space telecommunications.

7. In addition, specialized training courses focusing on the practical aspects of space technology applications are provided by many universities and specialized training centres.

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